

accountability, frugality, and integrity—mostly unnoticed by the press or anyone else particularly—he has saved the dutiful taxpayers of America tens of millions of dollars. When he came to Washington, I told him that because of my poor abilities, I needed to have the best staff we could put together. As a result of his leadership, I believe we created and have maintained a magnificent team, without whose help I could not have been successful.

In addition to his wife Beverly, whom I admire so much and with whom he attended Murphy High School in Mobile, where my daughter attended, and Auburn University, he has two fine sons: Phillip, a graduate of Georgia Tech and now a consulting engineer, and David, who commenced as a student at Boston College. He is and has every right to be extremely proud of them.

He and Beverly have opened their lives and home to my staff throughout the years. Serving as a “home away from home” for many Alabamians in the area and staff people, Armand’s house has been the site of holiday and office gatherings on numerous occasions.

Over the years, his ability to make the staff feel more like a family has earned him the friendship and affection of many. Many of our staff, as well as their parents, appreciate that.

I and all our team truly appreciate the open-door policy he has had with staff and recognize all the work he has done to keep things running smoothly in the office.

He has served extraordinarily well and faithfully, and it is now appropriate and just that Armand undertake new opportunities.

While I am sad to see him leave, I know he is about to embark on a great new career as executive director of the Government Relations Group at Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP, one of America’s finest law firms. I am confident he will meet the challenge of the new job with the same professionalism and dedication he has shown for the past 8 years as my chief of staff. His years of public service may be over for now, but his commitment to the Nation and the principles on which it was founded will never waiver.

I wish him all the best. I close with one final remark close to Armand’s Auburn heart: War eagle.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL AARON HOLLAND

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Aaron Holland of Columbus, NE, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. Lance Corporal Holland was killed in a car accident on December 17, 2004 near Richfield, UT, while returning home to Columbus from his second tour of duty in Iraq. He was 21 years old.

Lance Corporal Holland graduated from Columbus High School and is survived by his mother Becky and stepfather Paul Knopick; two stepbrothers, Silas and Paul Knopick; grandparents, Lois and Edmund Mueller; and uncle, Mark Mueller; all of Columbus. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. The United States of America is proud of Aaron Holland’s service and mourns his loss.

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. fostered Holland’s interest in a military career and after graduating in 2002, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After completing his training, he served with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego, CA. Holland served two tours in Iraq, from February to July 2003 and from February to August 2004. Lance Corporal Holland will be remembered as a loyal marine who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Lance Corporal Holland are currently serving in Iraq.

For his service, bravery and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring LCpl Aaron Holland.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSHUA A. RAMSEY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man who lived in Marion, IN as a child. PFC Joshua Ramsey, 19 years old, died on December 12 when he was shot while carrying out his duties in Iraq. With his entire life before him, Joshua risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

After attending Oak Hill Junior High School for the eighth grade, Joshua moved to Defiance, OH, where his father and stepmother live. Joshua, a 2003 graduate of the Four County Career Center, left a strong impression not only on his classmates but his teachers as well. One of his high school teachers, Tonya Fisher, shared some memories of her former student with the Marion Chronicle Tribune saying, “He was a good student and a good classmate. He worked really hard in class and was really dedicated. He knew he wanted to go to the military . . . He’s very family-oriented. He struggled with leaving his family, but he really believed in what he was fighting for.” Joshua’s mother, Joy, recalled her son’s bravery during a conversation she had with him not long ago. He told her, “Mom, I have one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Joshua was the 42nd Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the 95th Military Police Battalion, Mannheim, Germany. This brave young soldier leaves behind his

mother, Joy; his father, Bruce; and his stepmother, LeAnn.

Today, I join Joshua’s family, his friends and the entire Hoosier community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Joshua, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Joshua was known for his dedication to others and his love of family and country. When looking back on Joshua’s life, his grandmother, Margaret, told the Marion Chronicle Tribune that he had loved golf, was on the wrestling team and ran track. Today and always, Joshua will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Joshua’s sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln’s remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: “We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.” This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Joshua’s actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Joshua Ramsey in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Joshua’s can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.”

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Joshua.

#### LOSS OF FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM AND CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, this week, our Nation suffered the loss of two of the finest Americans to grace the public stage in my life time.

Congressman MATSUI and I served here together, and as a result of our passionate efforts to preserve and protect Social Security, and from leading